

Montana Transportation Commission

November 14, 2005 – Telephone meeting

Please note: an audio recording of the meeting is available from the transportation commission secretary at (406) 444-7200 or [ldemont@mt.gov](mailto:ldemont@mt.gov). Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (406) 444-7200 or visit the commission’s web site at [http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans\\_comm/meetings.shtml](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans_comm/meetings.shtml). The TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592.

Note: ==> indicates follow-up is needed.

The Montana Transportation Commission met via conference call on November 14, 2005. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kennedy at 10:05 am with the following participants:

- Bill Kennedy, Transportation Commission Chair (District 5)
- Nancy Espy, Transportation Commission Vice Chair (District 4)
- Rick Griffith, District 2 Transportation Commissioner
- Jim Lynch, MDT Director
- Jim Currie, MDT Deputy Director
- Tim Reardon, MDT Chief Counsel
- Loran Frazier, MDT Chief Engineer
- Lorelle Demont, Commission Secretary

Agenda item 1: Award projects from November 3, 2005 letting

Loran Frazier reviewed staff recommendations (see attached) for the following eight projects:

#	Project	County/ies	District	Low bid amount
2	NH 57-6(11)280 & STPP 51-1(3)0 <i>Circle - Southeast &amp; Jct MT 200 S - Northeast</i>	Dawson & McCone	Glendive	\$ 4,169,138.13
3	STPS 432-2(5)40 & NH 1-6(55)342 <i>Rudyard - South &amp; Rudyard - Gildford</i>	Hill	Great Falls	\$ 2,687,869.20
4	SFCN 5-2(141)93 <i>Somers - South</i>	Flathead & Lake	Missoula	\$ 2,095,927.95
5	NH 10-2(30)43 <i>Fort Benton - Loma</i>	Chouteau	Great Falls	\$ 1,598,204.50
6	NH 1-4(32)292 <i>Devon - E &amp; W</i>	Toole	Great Falls	\$ 1,198,486.33
7	STPX 56788(8) <i>NE of Billings - NE</i>	Yellowstone	Billings	\$ 1,179,117.91
8	NH 99-1(9)0 <i>Malta – Northeast</i>	Phillips	Glendive	\$ 1,250,246.35
9	BR 9028(10) <i>Wolf Creek - 8 km E of Vida</i>	McCone	Glendive	\$ 865,429.21
10	STPHS 61-3(22)85 <i>2000-Guardrail-3 km South of Fergus County Line-South</i>	Fergus	Billings	\$ 651,995.75
11	STPHS 90-6(105)317 <i>2001-Trail Creek Interchange-East of Bozeman</i>	Gallatin	Butte	\$ 735,119.10
12	STPHS 205-1(32)27 & STPHS 411-1(9)0 <i>2002-Signal-Jct S-411 &amp; 2002-Signal-Jct S-412</i>	Gallatin	Butte	\$ 204,022.49
13	STPHS-STPP 52-2(28)51 <i>MT 35/Sec 317 Intersection - Kalispell</i>	Flathead	Missoula	\$ 398,831.09
14	IM 0002(392) <i>D1 - Interstate Guardrail</i>	Mineral	Missoula	\$ 290,774.83
15	STPHS 0002(676) <i>1998 - D1 - Guardrail</i>	Flathead & Lake	Missoula	\$ 294,378.88
16	STPHS 263-1(22)6, STPHS 292-1(5)0 & STPHS 0002(759) <i>2001-Delineators-West of Missoula, 2001-Safety Improvement-Kalispell-North &amp; 2002-D1-Signing</i>	Flathead, Missoula & Sanders	Missoula	\$ 75,293.48

17	NH 102-1(2)8 57th-2nd Ave N/10th Ave S-Great Falls	Cascade	Great Falls	\$ 466,176.48
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Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to award 15 of the 16 projects (projects two through sixteen), excluding project #17; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted aye.

**Speed limit on US 191 during bison migration**

Jim Lynch updated the commission on a situation developing on US Highway 191. The buffalo are migrating out of West Yellowstone and are crossing Highway 191. Given winter conditions and the accident potential (a truck has already hit a big bull), we have been asked to reduce the speed limit. As a temporary measure, we have already put out warning signs and lowered the speed limit to 55 mph from where US 287 comes in to US 191 south to West Yellowstone (about four miles). If it needs to be lowered further, we will do that.

We are asking the Transportation Commission to concur with this action and, since the migration is expected to run through February 15, authorize a temporary lowered temporary speed limit for that duration.

Commissioner Espy said this is an excellent plan. She moved to concur with the department’s recommendation to temporarily reduce the speed limit on US 191 to 55 mph from just north of the junction with US 287 south to West Yellowstone until February 15, 2006. Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All three commissioners voted aye.

The call concluded at 10:25 am.

Bill Kennedy, Chairman  
Montana Transportation Commission

Jim Lynch, Director  
Montana Department of Transportation

Lorelle Demont, Secretary  
Montana Transportation Commission

attachment